

Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, December 5, 1875, with transcript

Copy of letter from Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell to her son, Alexander Graham Bell
December 5th, 75 P. O. Box 518 Brantford, Ont., Can. Home, December 5th, 75 (Prof. A.
Graham Bell, 292 Essex Street, Salem, Mass. U.S.) My dear Aleck,

I write just a line or two by way of accompanying Papa's though there is but little to say about home events. Poor Charley has been very ill all the week, he was a little better when we saw him yesterday but was still in bed and looking very pale. Carrie continues well and George, whom we met in the Town yesterday, said she intended to get up for the first time. All are well at home, and the reading last week went off with the usual success. Today I suppose you are at Cambridge. You will of course let us know when the "reception" you spoke of, is to take place, so that we may be with you in spirit, at all events. Trusting it may be an event of gratification and happiness to you and Mabel, and that henceforth you may look back to the day of your public betrothal, as an earnest of your life long affection and dependence upon each other.

With fond love, I am as ever, Your affectionate Mother, E. G. Bell

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Enclosed with letter from E. G. Bell My dear Al.,

Mamma acknowledged your last letter for both of us. We shall be glad when the "programme" of marriage comes to its performance. So far as Mabel is concerned, I have every reason to believe that your happiness will be secure. You can hardly however begin your married life with prudence, until you have the means to support her worthily. I wish that in this I could help you, but as you know, I cannot. Your income from teaching would I fear, be inadequate unless you were to content yourselves wisely, with a humble

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beginning. Should our hopes in your inventions be happily realized, you will be able to make amends to Mabel for any sacrifice of comforts at first. We are very glad that your mind is now settled in that important matter and we trust that the improvement in your health and spirits may as steadily continue. Mabel in prospect has done you so much good that I shall look forward to the happiest influences from Mabel in possession.

I received a set of your charts two days ago. They are very well executed. How does your V. S. class progress?

Let me hear all your professional news. Hoping soon to see you and congratulate you in person, I am, Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.